



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 13 Number 3

**AUTUMN ISSUE**

November 2019

### NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Denise Lagundzin, Registrar



**G**reetings Cousins, I trust that you all have had a wonderful summer. This summer, I attended the Gathering in Scotland. What incredible experience! I hope that you all get to attend once.

Our membership has grown since our Gathering at Fergus in August this year.

Please welcome our new members - William McNaught, Gordon Berringer, Doug MacPherson Darla & Ken Foote, Daniel Pearson and his daughter, our newest Junior member Mirielle Pearson.



Gordon Berringer (pictured) and his wife Cindy Di Marco reside in Montreal where he works for Bombardier Aviation. Gordon's mother is a Gillis, whose great-grandfather (believed to be named Donald Gillis) left Scotland via Oban, initially settling in Cape Breton before moving on to Newfoundland.

We have 2 former members who have returned - Joseph Place and Arielle Macpherson. At the time of writing, not all new members had been able to provide a photo and introduction.

When Annual members are renewing for 2020, please be aware of the price increase set by Scotland. One-year annual membership is \$43.00; Ten-year membership is \$430.00; Annual membership for 18 to 25-year-old is \$22.00 and a Junior membership for those under 18 years old is \$10.00. The Life Membership is now \$1,050.

If you have any questions, please contact me as follows:

Canada.registrar@clan-macpherson.org;

or by telephone at 519-507-4465.

### CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION



JOINT CANADA-USA GATHERING



CAIRN CROFT HOTEL  
NIAGARA FALLS ONTARIO

**SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2020**

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Ed Smith



**T**he Canadian Branch saw a rather quiet year for the most part.

We have seen a slight downturn in the past year, however as always there are a few Canadian members who are out attempting to improve the numbers by attending various Scottish games and events in our area.

I have found that many Macphersons are not always aware of or not interested in the association for various reasons.

The work on the "Macphersons in Canada" project has been completed and working with Trustee Ewen Macpherson has been a learning experience. The exhibit opened on July 1 (Canada Day) with Mary Duncan - the Honorary Consul of Canada in Scotland, Cluny and Lady Hillary, and a goodly number of clansfolk present.

I managed to come up with sixty pieces of information, however not all were acceptable to the Scottish national museum standards. Together with Ewen's skills and existing material there is a very interesting exhibit of Macphersons and associated Families, who contributed to Canada in the 150 years

*Continued on Page 2*

## TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The clan association is in good shape financially as of the end of September. We have \$8,713 in our current account and \$11,464 in our Life Membership Fund. We are showing a surplus of \$1,449 year to date at the end of September. The Clan Gathering generated a surplus of \$590 which helped our current account balance. I have remitted our membership fees to Clan Macpherson Association in September, as per the clan association guidelines. I do not envision any large expenses for the rest of the year. The surpluses generated this year will help with the planning and execution of next year's joint gathering.



Eilean Donan Castle

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank to following for their contributions and support to the Autumn issue: Denise Lagundzin, Ken Gillis, Ed Smith, Robert Macpherson, Robert W. Archibald, Robert J. Archibald and Mark Macpherson. We also thank Penny Abraham and Kevin Hartford for their valued assistance with this issue.

## THE GREEN BANNER

Published three to four times each year to bring information of interest to the members of the Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association.

**Honorary Chairman:** RGM Macpherson CM, KStJ, FSA Scot

**Officers:**

Ed Smith CD, Chairman  
Denise Lagundzin, Vice-Chairman  
Janet McCredie, Honorary Secretary  
Ken Gillis, Honorary Treasurer  
Denise Lagundzin, Registrar

**Immediate Past Chairman:**

William Macpherson, PEng

**Regional Councillors:**

John C House, MOM, FSA Scot, Eastern Canada  
E. Roderick Smith, Ontario West  
Robert T. Macpherson, Western Canada

**Webmaster:** Ewan Macpherson PhD

**Editor:** John C House MOM, FSA Scot

**Editor Emeritus:** Mark F Macpherson CD, FSA Scot

Inquiries and articles may be sent by email to  
greenbanner326@gmail.com

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Continued from Page 1

since Confederation. I have taken the material that is now on display in the Clan Museum in Newtonmore and compiled it into a spiral bound book depicting the entire exhibit "150 Years of Macphersons in Canada". The front and rear covers are printed on business cardstock with the 104 interior pages printed on 32 lb. satin finish paper. This paper shows no glare making the content quite appealing.

The book is available to the membership for \$50.00, including Postage within Canada. Robert Archibald provides details on how to order this book on page 3 of this issue.

The 2018 Canadian branch AGM/Gathering held in London, Ontario was a successful event. We were pleased to have in attendance CMA Chairman Bill and Jan Macpherson from Glenfarg, along with cousins Graham and Debby Gillespie from New York State. Convener and Honorary Secretary Janet McCredie and her committee did an excellent job.

The 2019 Canadian AGM/ Gathering was held August 9th, just two days after my return from the CMA AGM in Scotland. Former Branch chairman and editor Mark Macpherson has written a report on the event in this issue of the Green Banner. I Thank Mark and all the other branch members who took part in greeting the many visitors to the Clan tent at the games. There was a great deal to discuss during the meetings this year. The issue of restructuring membership dues caused a bit of discussion initially,

Effective January 1st, 2020 new membership rates are being introduced. These were introduced in the CMA council meeting in Scotland. Details are outlined above in Denise's Registrar report. Another item, which came to light from the CMA council meeting was an inquiry from Family Tree DNA. The company has approached the Clan Macpherson Museum Trust with a tentative offer of financial support for the museum roof campaign in exchange for exposure in the CMA's publications (Creag Dhubh and Branch newsletters) and sponsored events. This would mean providing a space in the Green Banner and a display of some sort, very likely a brochure to provide information to the many visitors to the Macpherson table at events that we attend.

The upcoming Joint 2020 Canadian American Gathering and AGM is at the planning stage at time of writing. Janet and Denise along with Graham and Debby Gillespie of the US Branch are ironing out the details. The event is planned for the week-end of September 25-27, 2020 and will be held at the Cairn Croft Hotel in the Niagara Falls, Ontario. Airport access is excellent to and from Toronto, Hamilton, Buffalo and New York airports. This should be a terrific event with many items of interest for everyone. More details will be available very soon.

With Regards, Edward M. Smith, CD

Chairman, Canadian. Branch

## DEADLINE FOR WINTER ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the Winter Issue are due on the Editor's desk by January 15th, 2020. We look forward to input to the Green Banner from all members. Send your drafts or outlines as soon as possible to:

Greenbanner326@gmail.com

## WESTERN CANADA

By Robert T. Macpherson



Another season of Highland Games and Clan Gatherings has come to an end along with summer. Here in Alberta, it seems like we missed fall! Too much snow in September and October for our liking. Fingers crossed for some nice fall weather soon!

I attended three events this past summer and met lots of people interested in their Scottish heritage, even some Macpherson 'cousins' although most belonged to septs.

My Scotland clan map seemed to be the biggest draw to our tent, regardless of Macpherson connections. People would stop and peer at the map, trying to find their own clans.



View of the interior of Robert's Clan Macpherson tent, including the clan map

I was invited to take our clan tent to the little village of Sedge-  
wick, Alberta where the people there put on an amazing Gathering of the Clans Highland Festival, complete with pipe bands and heavy events.

This was only the second year that they had put on this event, but you wouldn't know it! Their enthusiasm and organization was amazing. They even put on a pork supper before the ceilidh. The Flagstaff (county) Scottish club is to be commended.

I also represented CMA at the Calgary Highland Games amid the wind and the rain. Again, lots of visitors to our tent. The conditions weren't ideal, but the spirit was there all the same.

Then it was on to the Canmore Highland Games where the weather and participation was amazing. My wife, Sylvia, enticed and rewarded many visitors with her home-made Scottish oatcakes – a big hit.

The massed bands at the end of the afternoon in the shadow of the Rockies stirred the heart and raised goose bumps! Truly the best way to end the season of highland games.

Now I look forward to heading to Scotland next summer to attend the Clan Gathering at Newtonmore and Kingussie once again.



Robert and Sylvia Macpherson representing the CMA in Alberta

## MACPHERSONS IN CANADA BOOK

By Robert W. Archibald



In the summer issue (July 2019) of The Green Banner there was a report of the official opening of the 'Macphersons in Canada' exhibit at the Clan Macpherson Museum in Newtonmore on July 1, 2019.

The exhibit has been on display since then. Many of those attending the Clan Gathering in August also visited the Museum and viewed the exhibit. I

was there, along with Chairman Ed and other Canadian members, and I heard many favourable comments and surprise about the many Macphersons who played, and are playing, important roles in the development of Canada. The exhibit has clearly done a good job in educating Clan members and other visitors to the Museum about these contributions.

Now, for those of you who have not been able to visit the Museum recently, Chairman Ed Smith and Museum Trustee Ewen Macpherson have compiled a book, 150 Years of Macphersons in Canada which includes the materials in the exhibit—over fifty biographies and other historical background information illustrating the impact that members of this Clan have had on our country.

To obtain a copy, payment can be made by cheque payable to:

Ken Gillis, Treasurer,  
Clan Macpherson Association,  
202-1201 North Shore Blvd. E.  
Burlington, ON, L7S 1Z5

A Paypal option of payment is pending.

-Robert W Archibald

## 70<sup>TH</sup> CANADIAN BRANCH GATHERING

By Mark F Macpherson



The 2019 edition of the Canadian Branch Gathering took place on the weekend of August 9 - 11 in conjunction with the 74<sup>th</sup> Fergus Festival and Highland Games. This Gathering involved some innovations: It was tied into a summer highland event with a view to attracting families who are members of the Branch.

Second, the program for the Gathering was reduced versus past years with a dinner being held on Friday and the Branch AGM held on Saturday in a room at the Fergus Sportsplex located on the fair grounds. Third, the organized Sunday church service was dropped in favour of a second day at the games. Fourth, the registration fee for the event was brought to the minimum, to attract those who might be dissuaded by the usual higher registration. The event depended on the members interest in the Fergus games to which both Saturday afternoon and Sunday were devoted. The Council will be evaluating the results of this experiment in the coming months. Next year will be a joint Gathering with the US Branch hosted by the Canadian Branch. Planning for 2020 with the USA Branch has started and more information will be available later on.



Two Cln Pipers meet at dinner. Dr Ewan Macpherson and Pipe Major Hugh Macpherson CD

Twenty-four members and friends met on Friday evening at the Hampton Inn in Guelph, the hotel booked for the Gathering. Guelph is about twenty minutes by road from Fergus and quite convenient to the site of the games. Prior to the dinner, the meeting of the Branch Council was held to review the work of the Executive during the year and to prepare for the AGM held the following day in Fergus.

Following the Chairman's reception, the party sat down to a buffet supper organized by Janet McCredie, the gathering's



Janet's helpers: Ariel Illic, Brynn McCredie, Ellen Illic

convenor, and assisted by her daughter Brynn, her sister Ellen Illic, and niece Ariel Illic, all of whom helped with the service before and after the dinner, and did an excellent job selling the traditional raffle tickets. After the singing of the national anthem, the haggis was piped in by clan piper Ewan Macpherson. The address to the haggis was presented by Bill Macpherson, past Branch Chairman, who turned in his usual fine performance to the delight of the assembly.



Piping in the Haggis led by Ewan, followed by Ed Smith as haggis bearer and Bill Macpherson, who will deliver the Robbie Burns address

After dinner, Bill Macpherson gave an interesting PowerPoint® presentation summarizing a few of the entries in the exhibit at the Canadian Macphersons display now in the Clan Macpherson Museum at Newtonmore.

Ed Smith then presented a short report on the Canadian Macphersons display, that he had been instrumental in mounting. This project, carried out in conjunction with the Museum Committee in Scotland, lasted over two years. Many members of the Canadian Branch contributed with personal and family articles which were then mounted in the museum

*Continued on Page 5*

# 70<sup>TH</sup> CANADIAN BRANCH GATHERING

*Continued from page 4*

along with other material on Canadians of Scottish descent for the interest of the visitors during the next year.

The Canadian Macphersons exhibit was opened on July 1 this year in the presence of the Honorary Consul of Canada for Scotland, Mary Duncan, and attended by Ed Smith, representing the Branch.

Ed also noted that he was planning a book on this display that he is make available to the Branch Regional Representatives for promoting the Branch and the CMA at local meetings and games. As discussed elsewhere in this issue, the book will also be available at a reasonable price to all members of the Branch.

Ed asked Janet's group of young ladies to circulate once again with raffle tickets to pick up any delayed sales. Then the draws began from a very interesting group of prizes donated by the members attending. As expected, there were several happy winners, one of whom won twice, and a crop of disappointed



*Saturday morning the Council started work in the weight room. Ed Smith Chairman on the left, Bill Macpherson Past Chair, and Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer*

members. However, it is all in fun and a good cap to the evening.

On Saturday morning, the AGM was held in the "weight" room at the Sportsplex in Fergus, where the members present heard the usual reports covering the activities of the past year from the Chairman and the other officers.

We heard that the Canadian Branch is in good financial shape from the Honorary Treasurer, Ken Gillis, and from the Registrar, Denise Lagundzin, that the membership is stable with some losses during the year.

Dr Ewen Macpherson gave a short report on his activities as Branch Webmaster, and reminded the meeting that he is responsible for the technical aspects only and that the news content should be updated often and all fill-in forms, such as the application for membership, at least once each year.

One item of particular importance coming out of Scotland and reported by our Chairman, involved a change in the amount and

structure of CMA dues that will affect our dues in Canada. This is summarized in the Denise Lagundzin's report at page 1 of this issue.

As the Branch must add a small amount to the CMA dues to cover expenses in Canada, the Branch Council had decided to increase Canadian dues for 2020 by only the increase required by the Association, which is out of our control. Thus, we expect the annual dues for 2020 will be \$43 rather than \$35 as at present. The Canadian dollar amount of the other dues alternatives will be provided on the 2020 application and renewal forms.

The Nominating Committee Report was read by the Past Chair, Bill Macpherson, who noted that three of the Regional Representative positions, British Columbia, Central Ontario, and Quebec/Eastern Ontario, would be vacant starting in 2020 unless members can be identified to assume these important positions.

<b>Honorary Chairman (ex officio) Chairman</b>	R Gordon M Macpherson CM, KStJ, FSA Scot Edward M Smith CD
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Denise Lagundzin
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	Janet McCredie
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	Ken Gillis
<b>Registrar</b>	Denise Lagundzin
<b>Regional Councillors</b>	
<b>Eastern Canada</b>	John C House MOM, FSA Scot
<b>Ontario West</b>	E Roderick Smith
<b>Western Canada</b>	Robert T Macpherson
<b>Immediate Past President (ex officio)</b>	William Macpherson

Bill thanked LCol Myles Macpherson for his contributions as Quebec/Eastern Ontario Rep for the past few years and expressed the hope that he would come back on Council in the near future.

The slate proposed for 2020 and elected by acclamation was as follows:

All living former Chairmen serve on Council ex officio.

When the meeting terminated, everyone went out to the nice 20 ft X 20 ft tent that had been allocated to the Macphersons as the featured Clan for the 74<sup>th</sup> Fergus Highland Games. There, we formed up in two ranks for the Clan march into the stadium.

As the featured Clan, we fell in behind the Fergus Pipe Band at the front of the march. At the head of the Clan Macpherson contingent was our proud Chairman followed by our identification banner carried by Michael Lagundzin and James Place.

*Continued on page 6*

# 70<sup>TH</sup> CANADIAN BRANCH GATHERING

*Continued from Page 5*

Next came the Green Banner carried by Ken Gillis and the Association banner carried by Bruce Gillis, former Regional Councillor for Eastern Canada. This was the first time we had an all-Gillis colour party. Both Ken and Bruce performed their duties admirably.

Twenty-eight Macphersons marched onto the field in pretty good order, followed by Clan Bell and all of the rest in alphabetical sequence. Soon the whole field was filled with clansmen plus three pipe bands, standing and waiting expectantly. After the obligatory welcoming speeches from the dignitaries, the assembly was addressed enthusiastically by the 2019 Festival Chieftain. Dr. Joseph John Morrow, the Rt. Honourable Lord Lyon, King of Arms, Chief Herald of Scotland. When Lord Lyon was finished, the clans were introduced to a very supportive crowd in the grandstands. When our turn came, we shouted "Creag Dhubh" to enthusiastic cheers from the spectators as we marched off.

On returning to the tent, some of us tarried for a bit before exploring the grounds. The afternoon was quite busy with some of the Canadian Branch members speaking to the numerous visitors, answering the many questions regarding their connections to Clan Macpherson and inquiries about becoming members of the CMA.

During this time June issued an application form to a potential new member for the Association who seem quite keen. The members present at the tent also took turns speaking with younger people who stopped by to obtain a Clan Macpherson stamp in their Fergus games passport.

Lord Lyon dropped by the Clan Macpherson tent on a number of occasions, as he visited the other clan tents in the clan village area.



*The Clan March. The Macpherson contingent is in the foreground*



*Chairman's Table. Sitting: Janet McCredie, Ed Smith, Sue Jackson, Brynn McCredie. Standing: Ewan Macpherson, Ariel Illic, Bill Macpherson,*



*Sitting: Susan Macpherson, Bruce Gillis, Debbie Gillis, Jim Place, Marlene Place, and Christina Zanchetta-Place. Standing: Hugh Macpherson and Joseph Place*



*Sitting: Sondra Archibald, Ken Gilis, Ella Gillis, and Joan Lange. Standing: Robert Archibald, Marlene Archibald, Bob Archibald, June Macpherson, Mark Macpherson and Rod Smith*

On an exploration of the festival grounds on Saturday, we found there were quite a few food concessions on the site, all with long waiting lines in front of them, and lots of vendors. As a matter of fact, Mark discovered that his day-wear hose had shrunk to the point it took two people to kit him up, so he purchased a really nice replacement pair at a reasonable price.

Ed reports that on Sunday the festival continued, repeating the activities of Saturday at the Clan Macpherson tent. As several of the members had to leave on Sunday for home, those remaining returned to assist in greeting the visitors and answering their queries.

Lord Lyon stopped by to do a photo op with Ed and Bob Archibald (Port Hope), while waiting to do a TV interview.

Janet McCredie observed: "I stayed for the full two days. The tent was steadily busy. I felt the group of the Association members sharing information and stories was more magnetic for the visitors than just one representative.

We had our top sales for the badge, sold books and handed out a number of pamphlets. We really focused on the Macpherson stories with the children collecting the stamps. One wee girl had even been to the zoo in Scotland where the wildcat is located. She said she knew he was shy because, "he would na' come out of his cave!"

Ed Leaves this message: "I was exceptionally pleased how the attending Branch members took the opportunity to share in representing the Clan to the public and experiencing the activities of representing the Clan Macpherson at a Highland games event.

It is often said, "Many hands make light work"!

## ARCHIBALD GATHERING

By Robert J. Archibald



In July, eighty plus descendants of Arthur and Jean (née Stark) Archibald gathered to celebrate their ancestors' prolificacy with a large outdoor party near Keswick, Ontario.

Descendants and partners joined in an afternoon of reminiscences, games, food and drink, and piping, along with the usual outlandish lies about their accomplishments. Arthur was the grandson of Andrew Archibald, who immigrated to Ontario around 1833 from the Kippen area of Stirlingshire, and Jean was the granddaughter of John Stark, whose parents were originally from Fife but moved to Paisley, from whence they left for Ontario in 1841.



Archibald family gathering, near Keswick, Ontario

Arthur was Principal of Whitby High School and, later, Public School Inspector in Ontario County. Education was a priority in their home and this influenced the paths their descendants followed.

They had six children, of whom Canadian Branch member Robert W (Bob) was the fifth, and 22 grandchildren. Of the six, only Bob and one sister, Marian, now survive but their children and grandchildren also multiplied, leading to the current mob who gathered in July.

Among them were doctors, lawyers, professors, engineers, accountants and many other professionals who no doubt owe much of their success to the genes inherited from their Scottish ancestors.

## ADVERTISING IN THE GREEN BANNER

Members are reminded that there are opportunities for advertising space in the Green Banner.

We would like to defray the expenses of publishing and distributing our newsletter and also contribute to Branch operations.

The rates per issue are as follows:

Eighth Page	\$12
Quarter Page	\$20
Half Page	\$35
Full Page	\$65

The Green Banner is read by adults and children alike across the country and is circulated outside of Canada.

Anyone wishing to advertise their business, services or talents, or events that might be of interest to our readers, should contact Green-banner326@gmail.com for more details and multi-issue rates

## EASTERN CANADA

By John C. House



In October we took the opportunity to attend one of the many events associated with the 2019 Celtic Colours International Festival in Cape Breton. The 2019 festival involved more than 50 concerts in 35 communities around Cape Breton Island from October 11-19.

We attended a concert headlined by multi-award-winning Gaelic singer Julie Fowlis who is deeply influenced by her early upbringing in the Outer Hebridean island of North Uist. We previously saw her perform in 2014 when we attended one of her concerts in Edinburgh.

As expected, the show was excellent. Anyone interested in experiencing traditional Scottish music should try to attend this festival in the future. In 2020 it will be held from October 9th to 17th and information can be found at <https://celtic-colours.com/>.

Anyone planning a visit to Nova Scotia next summer might be interested in attending one of the Scottish themed festivals happening in the province. A recommended event is the 157th Antigonish Highland Games, being held from July 5th to 12th.

These Games feature athletic competitions such as the Elite Mile, Scottish heavy events, tug-of-war, as well as competitions in piping, drumming, pipe bands and Highland dance. For information about this event, see the following website: <https://www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca/>.

Another recommended event is the annual Festival of the Tartans held in Pictou County. Next year the festival runs from July 15th to 19th, and celebrates traditional Scottish culture that was brought to the area more than two centuries ago.

Events include a kilted golf tournament, massed pipe bands, Highland dancing competitions, Scottish heavy events, clan tents and genealogy, bagpipe quartet competition, and other outdoor entertainment. For information about this event, see the following website: <http://festivalofthetartans.ca/>.



Gate at the Clan Macpherson Memorial Cairn - Newtonmore, Scotland